AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as shown below.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 17-18 as shown below.

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 10 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 to the clean version shown below. A marked up version is shown in Appendix A.

Clean Version of Claims as Amended

1. (Amended) A method for generating a rebate in a postage meter resetting system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a postage refill request at a postage data center to electronically add postage to a postage meter;

determining at the postage data center a rebate value associated with the postage refill request; and

sending the rebate value to a designated location,

wherein the rebate value is based on the postage refill amount.

6. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising cryptographically securing the certificate in order to authenticate the source of the rebate and verify that the certificate has not been modified.

10. (Amended) A data center for a postage meter resetting system, the data center comprising:

a computer that receives a postage refill request to electronically add a postage refill amount to a postage meter;

Serial No.: 09/729,394   Patent
Attorney Docket No.: F-223

    means for determining at the computer a rebate value associated with the postage refill request; and

    means for sending the rebate value to a designated location, wherein the determining means determines the rebate value based on the postage refill amount.

Please add new claims 17 and 18 shown below:

17. (New) A method for generating a rebate in a postage meter resetting system, the method comprising the steps of:

    receiving a postage refill request at a postage data center to electronically add postage to a postage meter;

    determining at the postage data center a rebate value associated with the postage refill request; and

    receiving with the postage refill request a user preference for sending the rebate value, the preference being selected at the time of the postage refill request from one of issuing a check, electronically transferring funds, crediting an account, electronically transferring postage, and issuing a certificate.

18.(New) A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

    sending the rebate value to a designated location as a certificate; and

    cryptographically securing the certificate in order to authenticate the source of the rebate and verify that the certificate has not been modified.

{I0013207.1 }   - 3 -   3/4/03 Amendment